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Battelle Energy Alliance announces opportunity for major small business subcontract at Idaho National Laboratory

IDAHO FALLS -- Battelle Energy Alliance (BEA) will be offering businesses the opportunity to participate in the proposal process to bid for Staff Augmentation Services, Task-Based Engineering Services subcontracts. The Staff Augmentation Services subcontract is generally one of the biggest small business subcontracting opportunities available at Idaho National Laboratory (INL).

The BEA Small Business Office has invited more than 50 businesses, large and small, from across the country to a Technical & Engineering Services meeting May 21 at the Shilo Inn in Idaho Falls.

Participating businesses will be briefed on the requirements for both Staff Augmentation Services and Engineering Services during the morning session of the meeting from 9 a.m. to noon. Then, from 1-4 p.m., participating businesses will have the opportunity to network and form partnerships in order to strategically compete for the subcontracts. A formal Request for Proposal will be issued in early June for both opportunities. BEA expects to award the subcontracts in September 2008.

The Technical and Engineering Services Staff Augmentation subcontract, estimated at \$9 million over a four-year period, will strategically align the winning business and its team to provide BEA with employees to augment existing staff. The staff augmentation focuses on engineering, project management, project controls, etc., to support INL work.

The Engineering Services Task-Based subcontract will be worth about \$5 million and involve the winning partnership providing engineering and drafting services on specific projects.

"One of BEA's prime contract goals with the Department of Energy is to involve small businesses in the laboratory so they can grow and provide specialized skills to meet INL needs," said Dana Storms, INL Small Business officer.

She said, "One of the challenges small businesses sometimes face in bidding for subcontracts is that they may not have all the expertise or capabilities required for a job. By teaming with other businesses, both small and large, the small business can augment its skills using the broader resources of a larger firm. Through the Technical & Engineering Services meeting, BEA hopes small and large businesses can match skills and capabilities and form teams to present proposals."

While BEA is encouraging small and large business partnering, a small business can choose to bid on the contracts on its own. If bidding teams have small and large business partners, the small business must be the lead on the team.

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